

## LINCOLN COUNTY LEADER

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TOLEDO OREGON

The only people who have all they want don't want much.

Men who never swear would probably be unwilling to have all their thoughts written out.

The bank clerk who begins by living beyond his means generally ends by living behind the bars.

Many a fellow who was excited during the election now finds a thrill in looking after the ravages of the codlin moth.

Mark Twain forgot, a few evenings ago, that he was invited out to dinner. Most authors, unhappily, have strong reasons for vividly remembering such engagements.

The venerable Bishop Wheeler has sized up the Empress Dowager correctly, no doubt, when he says that she "is a woman of marvelous ability, without principle, and a perfect Jezebel."

American firms are going to build five great battleships for Russia. We might exult more over this matter if it were not for the fact that Germany was tickled when Krupp got his big contracts for furnishing arms to China.

If that poet who compliments his straw-haired wife by saying that all angels are blondes should ever go home with a black or brown hair on his shoulder he might stumble on to the discovery that all blondes are not angels.

Since the death of Jay Gould, the total of the family fortune has grown from \$65,000,000 to \$100,000,000. In view of these figures, the four-million-dollar investment of poor, little Anna does not seem such a frightful extravagance.

Could there be a finer tribute to the American soldier than the following words of an English observer in China? He says that they "have distinguished themselves not only in the face of the enemy, but equally so against the temptations that exist in a city like Peking under existing conditions."

The Prince of Wales wears his trousers without a crease. This will be bad news for the tailors and good news for people who have for years been haunted by fears of baggy trousers. However, as one tailor says, "we can have creases in our trousers without the consent of any other nation" if we want to.

The Connecticut woman who has sued a physician because he changed her complexion from that of a blonde to a brunette really ought to have a little patience. The brunette will be in fashion again before long, and then she will be glad of the change. But woman always was an impulsive creature.

A New York bank clerk rises to protest that "if Diogenes were living to-day, he could find the man he was looking for right in any bank in the country, yes, and not only one, but any number of the specimen for which he searched in vain"—and he is probably correct. All honor to the honest men in our financial institutions on whom dishonest men occasionally bring undeserved dishonor!

The Sons of the American Revolution in Hawaii recently offered a prize for the best oration, written and delivered in English, upon a specified historic theme. The competition was open to every boy in the islands. Was it the son of a Son, a native Hawaiian, a clever Japanese, a Portuguese of ancient lineage who, at that cosmopolitan crossroads of the Pacific, won the coveted prize? No, it was a full-blooded son of that China which is now the political problem of the world.

Government by syndicate is repudiated in Newfoundland. A shrewd speculator succeeded a year or two ago in getting many of the functions of the colonial government farmed out to him. This year he planned to get fuller control of the Legislature and complete the process of turning the colony into a stock company. The people have, however, defeated him overwhelmingly and will retain what little self-government is left to them. If indeed they do not resume possession of much that he has already taken.

You may talk about your cooking schools and your chafing dishes all you like. But when you have walked fifteen miles with dog and gun in the wake of quails and come at sundown to a big farm house where "the missus" fries a piece of ham the size of a shingle, with fresh eggs just brown enough and provides light biscuits, made from jug yeast, and apple butter and cow butter and boiled potatoes and that ham gravy, and coffee strong enough to bounce an iron wedge, and dill

pickles and pumpkin pie—why, what's the use of cooking schools?

This is a witty age. Everything tends to brevity. A few years ago the short-story movement began. Then public speakers learned that the longer their "spells" the shorter their influence. They began to run the blue pencil through their most swelling thought and trim the edges of their rhetoric. Now an orator who holds his audience more than an hour is rarely heard, preachers who go beyond twenty minutes being voted bores. Who now will read a six-volume novel? The Bookman says that the modern novel seldom contains more than 70,000 words, and 40,000 is better. At the same time sentences tend to shorten. Hooker's average sentence contained 41 words, Macaulay brought it down to 22 and Emerson to 20. Probably the average in current penwork is less than 20. Cut it short. By any by we shall talk in monosyllables, grunts or gasps. We have no time to accumulate words in sequence. Why use two words when one will serve the turn? And why waste a word when a look will suffice? We haven't time to talk. There is no money in it.

Though Elias Howe had only forty-seven instead of fifty-three votes, and so falls of immediate access to the Hall of Fame, there can be no doubt that his great invention should be a satisfactory card of admission. The same is true not only of Morse and Whitney, the successful candidates, but also of Fulton and McCormick. If the world had not been blessed by the discoveries of such of these men its development would have been seriously retarded. Morse destroyed distance, and aside from his service to mankind in general he performed an invaluable service for his own country. Without the telegraph a republic covering a continent would have been impossible. Whitney made the business of the Southern States, McCormick made the United States the world's granary, and Fulton's genius shines in those great ocean carriers which have revolutionized the commerce of the world. It is difficult to pass upon the relative merits of such work, but, vital as it all is to human progress, Howe is not outclassed in the competition. Probably the women's vote would be unanimous in his favor, for he has lightened the labor of woman a hundred fold in some directions and increased their opportunities for employment a hundred fold in others. If to-day the sewing machine is a commonplace adjunct of every household, it is not so long since it was regarded as a boon of the first magnitude. Many a woman subjected herself to daily sacrifices for weeks and months that she might purchase one from her scanty savings. When the price was high even the little hand machine was gladly welcomed, and there was always the resolution to go on from the substitute to the real thing. But this domestic phase of the question is only one of its many sides. The principle has been applied on the larger scale of enormous wealth-producing industries of various sorts until now the world would be at a loss without it. Business aggregating millions yearly, business which diffuses comforts among a countless multitude, would never have been developed, and life would be much harder than it is had not Howe persevered in spite of privations and discouragements and triumphed over the race of skeptics which always distrusts the gifts of genius.

### A Perplexed Celestial.

There is a young Chinaman in town who is studying medicine, and the stories he has to tell about his experiences are often well worth hearing.

During the heated days of last August he came home one afternoon looking decidedly disgusted.

"These American girls—they are so funny," he said with a despairing little gesture. "One come to me this morning. She had a very bad sun-burned neck and shoulders, and she wanted it treated, I say:

"You get this out bathing?"

"She say:

"No—I get it wearing lace yoke."

"I turn away. She say:

"What you prescribe?"

"I say:

"Cloth yoke, and go away from her. She looked offended, but I do not see why. What else could I say? But these American girls are very foolish," and the clever young celestial shook his head in despair of ever understanding the vagaries of girls who criticised pinched feet, and went around the streets with their shoulders practically bare.

### Sneeze Wood.

Among its many peculiarities South Africa includes the "sneeze-wood" tree, which takes its name from the fact that one cannot cut it with a saw without sneezing, as the fine dust has exactly the effect of snuff. Even in planing the wood it will sometimes cause sneezing. No insect, worm, or barnacle, will touch it; it is very bitter to the taste, and its specific gravity is heavier than water. The color is light brown, the grain very close and hard; it is a nice-looking wood, and takes a good polish. For dock work, piers, or jetties, it is a useful timber, lasting a long time under water.



A factory for liquid air is being erected at Los Angeles, Cal., for refrigerating purposes.

Careful experiments by Monsieur Brunhes, in France, indicate that the X-rays have a definite velocity which is of the same order as the velocity of light.

There are 120 firms in Germany engaged in the acetylene industry. Most of the burners are made at Nuremberg. There are no fewer than twenty-six small towns in Germany lighted by acetylene gas. The first plant of this kind for lighting small towns in Germany was erected at Hassfurt, a town of 2,500 inhabitants.

In England a lamp-post has been introduced which combines a fire hydrant, tap and fire-alarm box. The hydrant can be used for fire purposes, filling water carts and for street flushing, while the small tap can be used by an individual for domestic water supply. There is a water meter and siphon at the bottom, by which the water is shut off from the hydrant, thus preventing it from freezing.

According to a report published by the Home Office in London showing the mineral productions of the world for the last year, the United States easily leads all its rivals in this form of wealth. Great Britain ranks second, but far behind the leader, the total product of the United States having been about \$720,000,000, while that of Great Britain was \$400,000,000. Germany stands third, with nearly \$250,000,000.

Lord Rayleigh, in discussing our ability to tell the direction from which sound proceeds, calls attention to an interesting difference between the eyes and ears with regard to the size of the waves that strike them. The average wave length of light is about one ten-thousandth of the diameter of the pupil of the eye. On the other hand, "the waves of sound issuing from a man's mouth," says Lord Rayleigh, "are about eight feet long, whereas the diameter of the passage of the ear is quite small and could not well have been made a large multiple of eight feet." One consequence of the minuteness of light waves in comparison with the size of the eyes is that the lenses of the eyes are able to concentrate rays of light upon the retina with great efficiency.

Prof. John Trowbridge has recently had installed at Harvard University the most powerful apparatus in the world for the production of electro-motive force. The plant comprises 20,000 storage cells giving 40,000 electrical units of pressure, and this can be increased to 3,000,000 volts. But in order to obtain the full effect of so enormous a pressure, Professor Trowbridge says it would be necessary to remove the apparatus into the center of an open field and elevate it at least thirty feet from the ground in order to avoid loss from the inductive action of floors and walls. With this great battery the highest degree of instantaneous temperature yet attained can be produced. Professor Trowbridge hopes with its aid to obtain some clew to the temperature at which hydrogen exists in the stars. This plant furnishes, he adds, an ideal method of producing the X-rays.

### WAYS OF THE OLDEN TIME.

Regulations that Were Once in Vogue at Funerals and Churches.

Diving into the old records of one of the most charming cities of our commonwealth, Northampton, we find much of deep interest as revealing customs and habits of olden times. No fire was found in "the meeting-house" in olden time, and comparatively recently foot stoves were carried to church, as were tallow candles to the evening meetings. In 1787 the important vital question at a legal town meeting was, "Shall men and their wives be seated together in pews?" and the vote was an emphatic "No!"

In 1744, about the beginning of Jonathan Edwards' trouble in the parish, it was voted not "to pay the charge of bringing his daughters from Brookfield." In 1738 this appears on the town records: "Taking into consideration the difficulty Mr. Edwards hath labored under this year and some time past with respect to his firewood, the town voted that those persons who have not this year brought him a load of wood might have liberty between this time and next Tuesday night to bring each one his load of wood." If there was not a sufficiency of wood by that time, the town then voted, the selectmen shall see that the deficiency should be met at the cost of the town.

Later, in 1738, we find in the warrant for town meeting this entry: "To procure firewood for Rev. Mr. Williams, to choose a committee to seat the meeting-house." A most serious business to decide, who should take preference in the broad aisles: The "nigger pew," well remembered by the writer, caused no trouble to said officer, as that was readily accepted by the "colored brethren," like cows in the stable, who went dutifully to their separate stalls.

Not only the living had special rules governing their conduct, but the rules about the dead were very quaint, as by this report of a committee, May 11, 1780, to whom had been referred the conduct of funerals, as follows:

Whereas, It is the opinion of this town that funerals ought to be conducted with great decency and decorum in order to impress on rising and risen generations the importance of the awful solemnity, and to render the house of mourning better than the house of feasting. Be it therefore recommended to all the inhabitants of this town to observe the following regulations at funerals:

1. That the relatives of the deceased follow next the corpse, two and two.

2. If the deceased was a male person the males are to follow next the mourners, two and two, and the women after them, two and two; but if the deceased was a woman, then the women are to follow next the mourners and the men after them.

3. Those on horseback are to follow in after the foot folks, horses two and two, and the carriages are to follow in the rear of the procession. And it is requested that no person walk or ride on either side the procession from the house to the grave.

Ten of the prominent men of the city were appointed and requested to attend at funerals and to regulate the procession thus recommended until the same shall become habitual to the people. In 1745 the question was raised in the annual town meeting "if the town would be at the expense of coloring the meeting house, and it passed in the negative!" Evidently they thought that nature would do it without expense. Not till 1749 were the forts and fortifications of the town demolished and the timber and boards sold for the benefit of the town. Laws were passed relative to the schooling of boys and the amount of wood they should bring to the schoolhouse; girls were of no account in those days.

### GREAT BRITAIN'S ELECTORATE.

It Has Increased Nearly Sevenfold During Victoria's Reign.

When the queen came to the throne there were less than a million electors out of a population of more than twenty-five millions. That is as much to say that only 14 in every 100 adult males were possessed of the franchise. And yet five years had passed since the great reform bill had been placed upon the statute book after an epoch-making battle. To-day nearly 70 per cent of the adult males in the United Kingdom possess the franchise. The increase in population, added to the increase in the percentage of representation, has, however, given us an electorate of about six and three-quarter millions.

It is as well to note that during this extraordinary development of the electorate the elected representatives of the people have scarcely increased in number by a score. In 1801, at the union of the British and Irish parliaments, there were 658 members of the House of Commons. Disfranchisements and suspensions of writs reduced the number in actual practice to 640, round about which figure it remained till Mr. Gladstone in 1885 raised it to 670, the present total of the house.

It is quite probable, therefore, that, should the much-discussed "manhood suffrage" ever come into operation in this country, it will not add a single member to the distinguished gathering at St. Stephen's. Nor, as a matter of fact, will it add to the electorate itself as a large proportion as has been added in the last thirty-three years. For in that time 50 per cent has been added to the rate of adult male representation. A mere 30 per cent more would give every man over 21 a vote—if he cared to use it.—London Express.

### Finger Nails and Gentility.

In China long finger nails are a mark of gentility. They are an indication that their possessor is a man of leisure. When they are excessively long, approaching the dignity of talons, as they sometimes do, they indicate that the gentleman—or lady—attached to them has passed the mere gentility line, and has become a full-fledged aristocrat. In Annam, where the finger-nail habit has persisted for hundreds and perhaps thousands of years, these signs-manual of extreme gentility sometimes attain by careful cultivation the length of six or eight inches, and instances are on record where a length of sixteen and even eighteen inches has been attained. This custom prevails generally throughout what is known as Indo-China, which includes Siam, Burma, Cambodia, Laos, and the Shan states, etc. It is also common throughout the Chinese Empire, more especially in the southern provinces.

It is said that some of the Annamese noblemen never have their nails cut from the time of birth. In such cases, of course, the poor creatures are practically helpless, and have to rely on servants entirely for assistance in the discharge of the most common offices, being unable to either clothe or feed themselves.—New York Sun.

If you avoid making predictions, you will often avoid making yourself ridiculous.

There is such a thing as over caution that excites suspicion.

### THE FREAKISH RIO GRANDE.

Two Illustrations in One Day of the Queer Things It Can Do.

"To give you some idea of what sort of river the Rio Grande is, I'll tell an experience I had in getting across it with a derrick," said a mining man from New Mexico. "If after that you don't agree with me that it is a freakish river you're easy to suit. I was a contractor in rock work in those days, and was taking my derrick from the east side of the river to the Magdalena, where I had a contract to sink a mine shaft. The derrick was on four wagon wheels, and four mules were hauling it. I had my two helpers along, and one of them, a man named McCartney, drove the mules. He was an old-timer, which was lucky, for I was new to the country, and if I had trusted to my own judgment I might have made a mistake that would have cost me my mules and derrick, if not my life.

"We came to the Rio Grande an hour before sundown, and I saw a wide river bed, but no water, only dry sand, from one bank to the other. That was a new kind of river to me, but McCartney said it was all right; that it was a way the Rio Grande had of doing in places for five or six months in the year. The water was there, only it was flowing through the sands under the channel instead of in it. I, being a tender-foot, was for camping on the nearer bank where the grass was good, but McCartney said that would never do unless I was willing to take my chances of staying there a week or two; that water sometimes came down the channel, a good deal of it, and it would be well to get across while we were sure we could.

"We started across over the dry sands, and I was thinking what an easy way it was of fording a river when of a sudden the two lead mules were floundering in a quicksand and the whole outfit came near being drawn in. We got the two leaders clear of the harness and then the other two mules drew them out, one at a time. We hitched them up again, and by making a long circuit got past the quicksand and to the other bank. By that time it was 10 o'clock and the moon had just risen. The mules had just begun to climb the bank, when we heard a roaring noise up the channel. It came from a wall of water that stretched from bank to bank, and was traveling toward us fast. It looked in the moonlight to be four feet high, and there was higher water behind sending it on. We didn't need to holler to the mules. They heard what was coming and clawed up the bank like cats. We got out all right, derrick and all—and there were not three minutes to spare. Before we had finished our supper the river bed was full, bank high, with a current that eddied and roared as it rushed past our camping place as if it had been sorry to miss us and would like to get up where we were. There wasn't a cloud in the sky, or sign of rain anywhere, and the flood may have come from a cloudburst in Colorado 200 miles away. But it came near getting us. I had learned one lesson, and that was, in traveling by wagon, always to camp on the further side of a stream. And I had learned to put no trust in the Rio Grande."

### DETACHED BY THE TOE.

Automatic Device by Which Skates Are Easily Removed.

Edwin R. Knapp, of Red Bank, N. J., has patented a very handy and simple arrangement for adjusting the skates on the feet and removing them automatically. As will be seen by a glance at the accompanying picture, the foot plate is pivoted to the toe of the skate, with a locking spring catch at the heel. The skate is also provided with the usual clamps, which are in this case operated by the movement of the foot plate in conjunction with the runner, the op-



AUTOMATIC DETACHING DEVICE.

erating lever being attached to the runner in proximity to the pivot pin of the foot plate. In order that the action of tilting the plate in either direction will open or close the clamps. To place the skates on the feet when the clamps are once properly adjusted the foot plate is fitted to the shoe and the skater then rests his weight on the runner, which causes the spring catch to engage the plate and lock it securely. To detach the skate the toe of the shoe is pressed against the catch and the foot is lifted, which tilts the foot plate and loosens the clamps.

A little man living in town occasionally marries a woman who is small, but a little man in the country always marries a tall woman.

A letter from a relative is more apt to contain advice than money.